

What is claimed is:

1. A non-opaque card, comprising:
a sheet made of a non-opaque material and having a front surface and a
back surface; and

5 graphical elements that are printed on the front and back surfaces of the
sheet with background layers having different respective levels of opacity, and
visible through the card.

2. The non-opaque card according to claim 1, wherein at least one of
said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background layer and
10 another one of said graphical elements is printed on a translucent white
background layer.

3. The non-opaque card according to claim 1, wherein at least one of
said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background layer and
another one of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said surfaces
15 without a background layer.

4. The non-opaque card according to claim 1, wherein at least one of
said graphical elements is printed on an translucent white background layer and
another one of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said surfaces
without a background layer.

20 5. The non-opaque card according to claim 1, wherein at least one of
said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background layer, another
one of said graphical elements is printed on a translucent white background layer,
and a third one of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said
surfaces without a background layer.

6. The non-opaque card of claim 1, wherein at least one of said graphical elements comprises a first colored layer that forms an image of the element, a white background layer on said colored layer, and a second colored layer on said background layer that forms an image of the element, thereby
5 permitting the image of said element to be viewed from both sides of the card.

7. The non-opaque card of claim 1, further including an infrared-reflecting component that reflects infrared light in the range of about 700 nm to about 1000 nm, and transmits light having a wavelength less than about 700 nm.

8. The non-opaque card of claim 7, wherein said infrared-reflecting
10 component comprises a polyester film.

9. The non-opaque card of claim 8 wherein said polyester film is laminated between first and second sheets of non-opaque material.

10. The non-opaque card of claim 8 wherein said polyester film
15 comprises multiple nanolayers having different respective natural strengths of reflection.

11. The non-opaque card of claim 7, wherein said infrared-reflecting component comprises a filter dye, located on one of said surfaces, which allows visible light to pass through the card and simultaneously blocks infrared light from passing through the card.

12. The non-opaque card according to claim 11, wherein the filter dye
20 comprises at least two dyes, wherein each of the at least two dyes blocks infrared light in a different portion of the range of about 700 nm to about 1000 nm; and

the combination of the at least two dyes blocks all of the infrared light in the range of 700 nm to about 100 nm.

13. The non-opaque card of claim 1 further including a transparent tint dye on said sheet.

5 14. The non-opaque card of claim 13 wherein said tint dye comprises a single color that is disposed over the entire surface of one side of said sheet.

15. The non-opaque card of claim 13 wherein said tint dye consists of multiple colors that are printed onto a surface of said sheet in a pattern to produce a textured effect.

10 16. The non-opaque card of claim 15 wherein said textured effect comprises a marbled effect.

17. The non-opaque card of claim 1 further including a region of clear ink on an exterior surface of said card that defines a signature area.

18. A non-opaque card, comprising:

15 a first sheet layer made of a non-opaque material and having a front surface and a back surface;

a second sheet layer made of a non-opaque material and having a front surface and a back surface;

20 a filter dye, located on one of said surfaces, which allows visible light to pass through the card and simultaneously blocks infrared light from passing through the card; and

a plurality of graphical elements on at least one of the front and back surfaces of the first and second sheet layers, and that are printed on backgrounds having different respective levels of opacity.

5 19. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein the filter dye is printed on the back surface of the first sheet and/or the front surface of the second sheet.

20. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein the filter dye has a minimum absorbance level of 1.3 for light having a wavelength in a range that includes 700 nm and greater.

10 21. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein said range is approximately 700 nm to 1000 nm.

22. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein the filter dye permits visible light in a substantial portion of the range of 400-700 nm to pass through the card.

15 23. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein the filter dye permits visible light in a substantial portion of the range of 400-700 nm to pass through the card.

24. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein the first and second sheet layers are laminated together.

20 25. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein the filter dye comprises at least two dyes, wherein each of the at least two dyes blocks infrared

light in a different portion of the range of about 700 nm to about 1000 nm; and the combination of the at least two dyes blocks all of the infrared light in the range of 700 nm to about 100 nm.

5 26. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background and another one of said graphical elements is printed on a translucent white background.

10 27. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background and another one of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said surfaces without a background.

 28. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said graphical elements is printed on an translucent white background and another one of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said surfaces without a background.

15 29. The non-opaque card according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background, another one of said graphical elements is printed on a translucent white background, and a third one of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said surfaces without a background.

20 30. A non-opaque card, comprising:
 a sheet layer made of a non-opaque material;
 a filter dye associated with said sheet layer and comprising a first dye, a second dye and a third dye, wherein the first dye blocks infrared light having

wavelengths in a first portion of the range of about 700 nm to about 1000 nm, the second dye blocks light having wavelengths in a second portion of said range, and the third dye blocks light having wavelengths in a third portion of said range, and wherein the combination of the first, second and third dyes blocks all infrared
5 light in said range while permitting substantially all visible light in a range below about 700 nm to pass through said card; and

a plurality of graphical elements on said sheet layer that are printed on backgrounds having different respective levels of opacity.

31. The non-opaque card according to claim 30, comprising first and
10 second sheet layers that are laminated together.

32. The non-opaque card according to claim 30, wherein said filter dye is incorporated in a film layer that is laminated with said first and second sheet layers.

33. The non-opaque card according to claim 30, wherein said filter dye
15 is incorporated in a solution that is printed on a surface of said sheet layer.

34. The non-opaque card according to claim 30, wherein said filter dye is incorporated into the material of said sheet layer.

35. The non-opaque card according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background and another one
20 of said graphical elements is printed on a translucent white background.

36. The non-opaque card according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background and another one

of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said surfaces without a background.

5 37. The non-opaque card according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said graphical elements is printed on an translucent white background and another one of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said surfaces without a background.

10 38. The non-opaque card according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said graphical elements is printed on an opaque white background, another one of said graphical elements is printed on a translucent white background, and a third one of said graphical elements is printed directly on one of said surfaces without a background.